



Springfield-Greene County
Health Department
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From the Office of the Director of Health

Special Saturday Registration Sessions Offered to Pit Bull Owners

In order to allow pit bull dog owners the opportunity to comply with a new city ordinance and register their pets, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department will offer two Saturday registration sessions at the animal shelter in October.

"We've had requests from the public to offer additional hours outside of the traditional work day," says assistant director of health Ron Boyer. "We will bring in staff and open our doors on two Saturdays in October in order to accommodate owners who can not bring their dogs in to be registered during the work week."

From 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on October 7th and October 14th, pit bull owners may visit the animal shelter at 4002 N. Farmer to register their dogs. No appointment is necessary. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis, but owners are asked to keep pets muzzled and in their cars until given further instructions.

Registration will cost \$50.00 and includes microchipping. Owners must pay with cash, must show a photo I.D. and bring written proof that dogs have been spayed or neutered and have been vaccinated against rabies.

"This registration process is required in an ordinance passed by Springfield City Council on April 17, 2006," adds Boyer. "The ordinance is an effort to better protect the public by enforcing new requirements for all pit bull dogs living inside Springfield city limits."

According to the ordinance, pit bull dogs may only be kept within city limits if owners follow certain regulations.

- Pit bulls must be registered annually with a \$50.00 fee.
- Pit bulls must be vaccinated for rabies, as stated in existing state law and city ordinance.
- Pit bulls must be spayed or neutered.
- Pit bulls must be microchipped.
- Pit bulls must be kept in a secure, fenced enclosure while on the owner's property.
- A sign at least 8"x10" that reads "Pit Bull Dog" must be clearly displayed at all entrances to the owner's property.
- When off the owner's property, the pit bull must be leashed and muzzled.
- Owners must notify authorities within five days if the pit bull is lost, stolen, dies or has puppies.
- New litters of puppies must be registered following the same guidelines, in order to stay within city limits.

Health department staff will begin enforcing provisions of the new ordinance on October 16, 2006. For more information, call the Pit Bull Information Hotline at (417) 864-1166 or go online to <http://health.springfieldmogov.org>.

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